

Circul-a-bility (CA19124) – Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM) grants and Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) Conference grants (1st grant period until SEPT 2021)

ITC CONFERENCE GRANTS

Two grants of 500 € are available towards registration for ONLINE conference in line with objective of the Action.

STSMs

What are STSMs?

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) are short term exchange visits aimed at supporting individual mobility, strengthening existing networks, establishing new partnerships, fostering collaboration, learning and sharing of new techniques, data, instruments, methods and infrastructure not available in home institutions / organisations. An STSM should specifically contribute to the scientific objectives of the COST Action (CA19124 – Circul-a-bility).

Who can apply?

STSMs are open for PhDs, PostDocs, and advanced career researchers employed at institutions in countries participating in the Action, or at approved institutions. STSMs must be performed between COST countries - researchers cannot apply for an STSM within their own country. *In the evaluation process priority will be given to Early Career Investigators (ECI) (maximum 8 years since obtaining their PhD at the time of application) and PhD students. Particular consideration will also be given to candidates moving from/to COST Inclusiveness Target Countries.* Awards will also be prioritized to ensure support to a variety of researchers in terms of gender, career stage, affiliation, and nationality.

What can you apply for?

You can apply for an STSM of the duration between 5 and 90 days. The STSM will be a fixed grant to cover part of the travel expenses and living allowance. STSM Grants do not necessarily cover all expenses related to undertaking a given mission. STSM grantees shall make their own arrangements for all provisions related to personal security, health, taxation, social security and pension matters. The grant will be paid only after the STSM has been completed (the Grant Holder can arrange a pre-payment of 50% of the STSM grant for researchers from ITC).

The following funding conditions apply and must be respected:

- up to a max of EUR2500 in total can be afforded to each successful STSM applicant (including travel and accommodation, etc.);
- up to a max of EUR160 per day can be afforded for accommodation & meal expenses (which is part of the total funding);
- for ECIs, a max amount of EUR3500 can be afforded for STSMs with a duration of between 91 & 180 days (for ECIs with a duration of between 5 & 90 days, the limit is EUR2500); STSM activities must occur in their entirety within the dates specified in this call.

STSM awards may be combined with other funding sources, but these must be acknowledged in the application.

For detailed rules regarding eligibility and financial support, please see the relevant sections of the COST Vademecum (<http://www.cost.eu/download/COSTVademecum>).

When can you apply?

Calls for regular STSM applications will be issued one time during each grant period. Application process for the first grant period (GP1) is described as following;

Call is open and will be subjected to availability of funding with the following deadlines

- February, 2021, 16:00.
- April 1 2021 16:00

Applications will be assessed by the STSM Committee, which will perform the scientific and budgetary assessment of the applications against the perceived contribution that the proposed visit will make against the scientific objectives outlined in the Action's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Applicants will be notified within two weeks from the application deadline.

STSM should be completed by 15 SEPTEMBER 2021.

What is the application and grant process?

- (1) Applicants must carefully read the funding rules detailed in Vademecum (<https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Vademecum-V8-1-May-20202.pdf>)
- (2) Applicants must complete and submit online at: <https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm>. (If you do not already have an e-COST account you will first need to 'create an account' - which will include providing the details of the bank account where the grant will be lodged if your STSM application is approved and the STSM successfully completed.) The list of supporting documents to be submitted for the evaluation are:
 - a. A C.V. (including a list of academic publications) and a letter including
 - i. an overview of the aims and the proposed activities that will be performed,
 - ii. a workplan and research plan for the visit,
 - iii. a description of the proposed contributions to the scientific objectives of the Action.
 - b. A letter of invitation from a senior Researcher at the Host institution confirming that they can undertake the STSM on the given dates should their application be approved
 - c. A letter of support from the Applicant's Home Institution.
- (3) The STSM coordination group will propose a ranking of application to the Core Group of the action. Depending on the available budget the Core Group will determine the final ranking and decide how many applications can be approved.
- (4) If approved, the STSM coordinator sends notification to the applicant.
- (5) The Grant Holder sends the applicant a grant letter to sign and return. The STSM should not be started until this letter has been signed and returned.
- (6) Within 30 days from the end date of the STSM, the successful applicant must submit a scientific report to the Host institution and to the eCOST system. This must include: the

purpose of the mission; description of work carried out; description of main results/outputs; plan of future collaborations with Host (if applicable); planned publications resulting from STSM (if applicable); confirmation of successful STSM by Host.

(7) STSM Coordinator and Action Chair approve the final report.

(8) The Grant Holder executes payment to STSM Applicant.

Criteria for Awarding STSM

STSM funding will be awarded according to the COST key principles and as follows:

- **Relevance:** if the scientific aims of the work will be relevant and applicable to the Action's aims (1-5 points).
- **Quality and clarity:** if the proposed research is of high quality, and argues clearly and cogently the importance and timeliness of the research (1-5 points).
- **The choice institution:** if there are adequate specific scientific reasons for visiting the chosen Host institution (1-5 points).
- **Balance:** if there is a fair spread of researches across the network in terms of gender, career stage, affiliation, and nationality (1-5 points).
- **Potential:** if the publication/output potential of the research is adequate (1-5 points).

The STSM Committee